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**For Immediate Release:**

July 7, 2016

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*GDOT partnerships improve lake recreation...*

### Newly constructed Little River Bridge opening to traffic

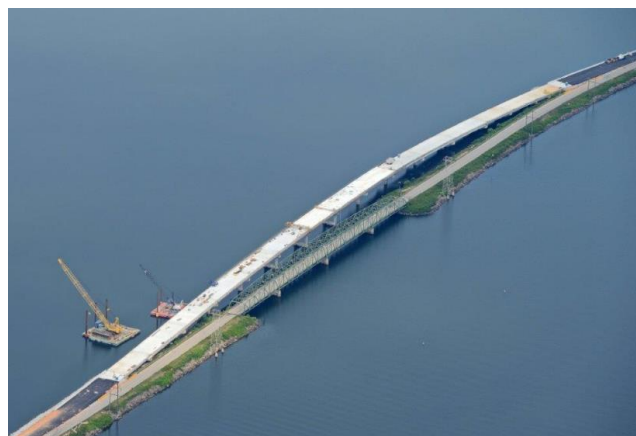
TENNILLE – Today marks the official opening of the newly constructed State Route (SR) 47 Bridge over the Little River at Clarks Hill Lake. This \$24 million project enhances transportation safety and operations, while also improving a vital natural resource for recreational use. It is located near the boundary of Columbia and Lincoln counties.

Various stakeholders were involved in the project including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Natural Resource Manager Christopher Spiller, who said the new bridge adds value to Clarks Hill Lake. The new bridge structure is 1,900 feet long and approximately 30 feet above the normal water level elevation of Clarks Hill Lake. Spiller said this improvement opens up the waterway to previously untapped boat clientele, considering that the nearly 65-year-old existing bridge only allowed 12 feet of normal pool clearance.

“This really helps with a couple of problems for the larger vessels and the marina,” Spiller said. “Now larger vessels have access to the entire lake. This provides a tremendous service to our visitors. It’s a show piece for the lake.”

The old SR 47 bridge was built in 1952. Several factors were involved in the decision to replace the bridge, including the age of the structure, the narrow width of the bridge and the lower clearance of the existing steel trusses.

GDOT utilized a contracting approach called Design-Build to expedite the delivery of this project and to minimize environmental impacts as well as the cost of the project. In Design-Build, GDOT solicits qualified teams to present innovative solutions which meet the required scope of services and achieve GDOT's goals. On this project, award was made to the team with the lowest responsive bid, along with the earliest proposed project completion date.



*This May 27 aerial taken toward the end of the new Little River Bridge construction near the boundary of Columbia and Lincoln counties showcases the \$24 million project enhancing transportation safety and operations, while also improving a vital natural resource for recreational use*

The project was awarded to the Design-Build team of Scott Bridge Company, Inc. (construction) and Michael Baker Jr. Inc. (design) in November 2013. The team initially performed final design and permitting activities prior to construction starting in October 2014.

State Transportation Board member Jamie Boswell, who represents the 10<sup>th</sup> Congressional District said the innovative project delivery created far-reaching results.

“This is another example of how the Design-Build method expedites and improves the construction process with the least possible impact on the environment,” Boswell said. “This project not only benefits Georgians but people from all over the Southeast who enjoy our natural recreational resources.”

Major contract work items included bridge construction, rock embankment, asphalt pavement, erosion control, and guardrail installation. Much of the construction occurred in water ranging from a depth of 40 to 70-feet within the lake.

Remaining work to be completed after the new bridge opens to traffic includes existing bridge demolition and removal. After the project is complete, GDOT will coordinate the installation of a navigational lighting system on the new bridge over the channel.

The anticipated completion date for final work items is fall 2016.

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